

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: 14 JANUARY NPG STAFF GROUP MEETING

REF: STATE 006933

BEGIN SUMMARY: AT 14 JANUARY NPG STAFF GROUP (SG) MEETING, US REP SAID THAT US WAS PREPARED TO LEAD OR CO-LEAD THE STUDY OF IMPLICATIONS OF NEW WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY. FRG REP WISHED TO OBTAIN GUIDANCE FROM HIS AUTHORITIES ON QUESTION OF CO-LEADERSHIP. (IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION PRIOR TO SG MEETING, UK AND FRG REPS SAID THEY BELIEVED THEIR AUTHORITIES FAVORED US LEADERSHIP OF STUDY. FRG REP SAID HE HOPED US, UK, AND FRG OFFICIALS COULD DISCUSS THE STUDY AT THE PHASE II MEETING IN LONDON. US REP AGREED.) DENMARK AND PORTUGAL WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY. NORWEGIAN REP SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WERE LEANING TOWARD BERGEN AS LOCATION FOR SPRING NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING, WITH OSLO A FALL-BACK ALTERNATIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. AT 14 JANUARY MEETING, NPG STAFF GROUP (SG) CONTINUED  
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DISCUSSION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE STUDY OF IMPLICATIONS OF NEW WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY. DENMARK AND PORTUGAL WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY. TEN COUNTRIES HAVE NOW REGISTERED THEIR DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY, I.E.,

ALL NPG MEMBERS EXCEPT NORWAY AND GREECE. THESE LATTER TWO COUNTRIES HAVE STATED THAT THEY DO NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY FROM SG CHAIRMAN (SEIM), US REP, DRAWING ON GUIDANCE IN REFTTEL, SAID THAT THE US WOULD BE PREPARED TO LEAD THE STUDY IF THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS WISHED IT TO DO SO. HE SAID THAT THE US WOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO CO-LEAD THE STUDY. SG CHAIRMAN ASKED WHETHER SG MEMBERS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE STUDY COULD PROVIDE A CONSENSUS OF OPINION ON THIS QUESTION WHICH THE US REP COULD REPORT TO WASHINGTON. FRG REP (THYES), WELCOMING US OFFER TO LEAD STUDY, SAID THAT HE WOULD NEED TO OBTAIN VIEWS OF HIS AUTHORITIES ON CO-LEADERSHIP. SG AGREED TO DISCUSS CO-LEADERSHIP AGAIN IN TWO OR THREE WEEKS, SINCE FRG REP EXPECTED POSSIBLE DELAY IN GETTING GUIDANCE DUE TO THE PHASE II MEETING IN LONDON DURING WEEK OF 21 JANUARY. CANADIAN REP (BECKETT) SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT DEFERAL OF DISCUSSION OF CO-LEADERSHIP WOULD NOT BE CAUSE FOR DELAY IN PREPARATION OF PRELIMINARY WORK REQUIRED TO INITIATE STUDY, PARTICULARLY IN US. US REP SAID HE ANTICIPATED THAT WASHINGTON WOULD DEVELOP ITS VIEWS ON ORGANIZATION, CONDUCT, PARAMETERS, AND TIMING OF THE STUDY WITH A VIEW TOWARD CIRCULATING THESE FOR COMMENT TO OTHER STUDY PARTICIPANTS, POSSIBLY EARLY IN FEBRUARY. HE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT WORK ON THIS WOULD NOT BE DELAYED, AND THAT IF A CO-LEADERSHIP ARRANGEMENT IS AGREED, US VIEWS WOULD BE DEVELOPED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OTHER CO-LEADER.

COMMENT: IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION PRIOR TO SG MEETING, UK REP (BEAUMONT) SAID THAT HE HAD NO INDICATION FROM HIS AUTHORITIES THAT THEY WISHED TO CO-LEAD THE STUDY WITH THE US. HE THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE GLAD TO SEE US TAKE LEAD. IN ANOTHER PRIVATE CONVERSATION PRIOR TO SG MEETING, FRG REP SAID THAT HE DID NOT HAVE SPECIFIC GUIDANCE FROM BONN ON QUESTION OF CO-LEADERSHIP. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THE US SHOULD LEAD THE STUDY, AND HE THOUGHT THAT BONN WOULD\* SHARE THIS VIEW. HE SAID THAT HE CONFIDENTIAL

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HOPED THAT US, UK, AND FRG REPS ATTENDING THE PHASE II MEETING IN LONDON COULD DISCUSS ORGANIZATION, PARAMETERS, AND TIMING OF THE STUDY. US REP SAID HE FELT CERTAIN THAT US WOULD BE GLAD TO DO THAT, AND THAT UK AND FRG VIEWS WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IN PREPARATION OF USVIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT: END COMMENT.

3. NORWEGIAN REP REPORTED O SG N STATUS OF PLANNING FOR LOCATION OF SPRING NPG MINISTERIAL IN NORWAY. HE SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WERE LEANING TOWARD BERGEN, WITH OSLO AS A FALL-BACK ALTERNATIVE. RUMSFELD

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